Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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R 151022Z JUN 75 FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4841 INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

CONFIDENTIAL AMMAN 3954

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, IQ, XF

SUBJECT: TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER: JORDAN-IRAQI RELATIONS

- 1. DURING TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER RIFAI MORNING
 JUNE 14, ONE OF TOPICS DISCUSSED WAS JORDANIAN RELATIONS
 WITH IRAQ. WHILE SYRIANS HAD WORRIED GOJ ABOUT GETTING
 TOO CLOSE TO IRAQIS AND HAD TALKED IN AN EMBITTERED
 WAY ABOUT THE PRESENT DISPUTE, JORDANIANS WERE PREPARED
 TO TAKE A FEW CAREFUL FORWARD STEPS.
- 2. RIFAI SAID THAT BEFORE END OF JUNE IRAQI MINISTER OF INDUSTRY JAZRAWI WILL BE COMING TO JORDAN WITH AN ECONOMIC DELEGATION. ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS WILL BE TO FINALIZE IRAQI USE OF PORT OF AQABA FOR TRANSHIPPING CARGOES. PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ACCORDING TO RIFAI. LATER GOJ MIN TRANSPORT TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT AQABA HAD ALREADY INCREASED ITS 600,000 TONS PER YEAR GENERAL CARGO CAPACITY TO 800,000 TONE PER YEAR BY IMPROVING LABOR PRODUCTIVITY (WAGE RISES) AND MAKING BETTER USE OF CARGO HANDLING MACHINERY. THIS IN TURN WILL BE RAISED TO 1.0M TONS CONFIDENTIAL

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PER YEAR BY THE PURCHASE OF NEW MACHINERY. WITHIN THIRTY

MONTHS AN EXTENSION OF UNLOADING FACILITIES, PAID FOR IN PART BY GERMAN AID WILL INCREASE TONNAGE CAPACITY TO 1.5M TONS PER YEAR. BOTH IRAQ AND SYRIA WANT TO USE AQABA. PRIME MINISTER SAID IRAQ HAS OFFERED TO HELP PAY FOR PORT EXPANSION AND IS STUDYING FEASIBILITY REPORT NOW.

- 3. RIFAI ALSO NOTED THAT IRAQIS SEEM PREPARED TO HELP PAY FOR A SECOND HIGHWAY IN JORDAN FROM IRAQ TO AQABA VIA H-4, AZRAQ, BAYER, JAFR, MA'AN TO AQABA. STUDIES OF THIS ROUTE HAVE ALSO BEEN HANDED TO IRAQIS.
- 4. FINAL POINT RIFAI MADE WAS THAT IRAQ HAD NOT YET HANDED OVER \$12.0M DUE UNDER RABAT PAYMENTS. HE WOULD HIT DELEGATION HARD ON THIS PAYMENT WHEN THEY CAME. ALL THE REST OF RABAT PAYMENTS WITH EXCEPTION OF FOUR INSTALLMENTS FROM ABU DHABI 8UAE) HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY JORDAN. PICKERING

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To: STATE

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